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Weekend fires send 1 to hospital

DAMAGE There were two fires overnight in Gatineau Sunday, one sending a woman to hospital and one damaging a natural food store.

Gatineau police were alerted to a fire at La Boite A Grains on 325 Greber Blvd. at about midnight. The fire started in a garbage bin outside of the building. The blaze melted a natural gas meter, which caused the fire to spread and enter the building through the roof.

Damages are estimated at $500,000. Gatineau police are investigating the fire and have labelled it suspicious.

While there were no injuries in that fire, an earlier blaze sent a woman in her 40s to hospital for smoke inhalation.

At about 8 p.m., police were called to a house fire on Lambert Street. The fire started in the basement and police do not yet know the cause. There was smoke and fire damage in the basement.

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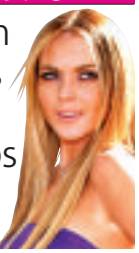
Canada page 4

Flight 111 pain lingers

Celebrity page 14

Lohan fishes for Phelps date?



Hot air balloons **Firing up the festivities**

ETIENNE RANGER/FOR METRO OTTAWA

Brigitte Johnston, centre, gets ready for take off at Gatineau's hot air balloon festival at Le Parc de la Baie over the weekend. The 21st edition of the festival, which wrapped up yesterday, drew thousands of spectators. Story, page 3.

Harper, Dion talks end in stalemate

Fall election coming, Grit leader says after sour meeting

Canada looked to be heading for its third election in four years yesterday after Prime Minister Stephen Harper failed to persuade the Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion to keep his minority Conservative government alive.

After an unproductive meeting, Harper and Dion traded blame, each saying the other wants an election.

Harper is expected this week to ask for a dissolution of Parliament and call an election for Oct. 14, the Canadian Press quoted senior government sources as saying late yesterday.

A spokeswoman for Harper declined to comment on the report, while the prime minister's chief spokesman did not respond to phone and e-mail questions.

The prime minister has made it clear over the last few weeks he thinks an election is the only way to fix what he sees as a dysfunctional Parliament.

Harper spokesman Kory Teneycke said Dion rejected a request to keep Harper in power until October 2009, which under fixed date laws is the next set election date.

"We are simply looking for broad areas of agreement ... there were no areas identified by the opposition leader where he had any common ground," he said.

"The reason he mentioned — that Parliament is not working — is only a charade, it's a fake."

Stéphane Dion

Last week, Harper held talks with the leaders of the two other opposition parties, who both emerged saying they were convinced he wanted an election.

Dion said he had pressed Harper to explain why he was breaking the spirit of the fixed date legislation.

"The reason he mentioned — that Parliament is not working — is only a charade, it's a fake," he said. "He's doing it ... because he doesn't want Canadians to have too much time to see how ill-prepared he is to face the economy."

Asked if there was going to be an election, Dion replied: "Oh yes. We all know that ... he had decided that anyway."

REUTERS

Pregnant woman injured in break-in

SHOTGUN An 18-year-old pregnant woman was struck with a shotgun during a west-end home invasion yesterday morning.

Just after midnight, five masked suspects, armed with shotguns and a handgun, entered a private residence on Poulin Avenue through an unlocked back door and demanded money from the four adult occupants, said Ottawa Police Staff Sgt. Don Sweet.

The suspects allegedly punched an 18-year-old pregnant woman and struck her with the butt of a shotgun, injuring her.

Ottawa paramedics arrived at the scene, where they treated the woman for minor facial injuries.

The woman and her baby are fine, said Sweet.

"They weren't there very long," said Sweet of the suspects. He said one of the occupants called 9-1-1 during the incident, causing the suspects to flee the scene.

The suspects took a small sum of money and left in a vehicle, whose description is not yet known.

The five suspects are described as Middle-Eastern males in their late teens.

Ottawa police do not believe the victims were known to the suspects, nor are they saying if it's a random incident, but said that they are investigating.

Police are asking people to keep their doors and ground-floor windows locked at all times.

Anyone with information can call the Ottawa Police Robbery Unit at 613-236-1222 extention 5116 or Crime Stoppers at 613-233-8477 (TIPS).

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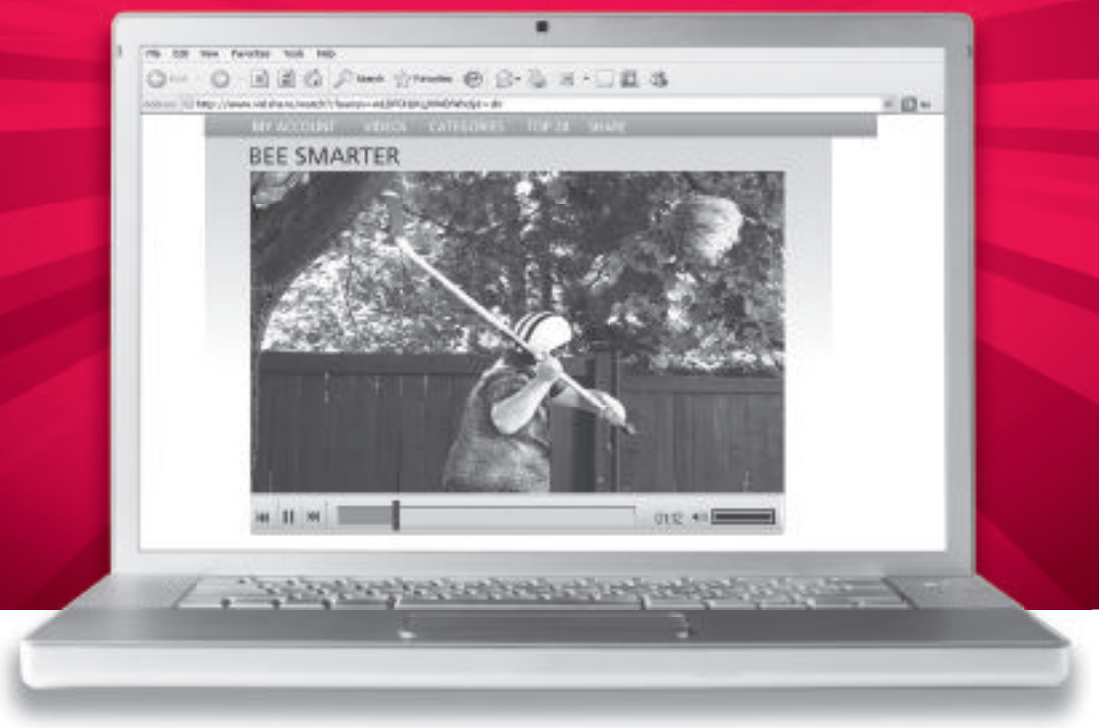

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Police chief set for another Wiggle Waggle Walkathon
Ottawa Police Chief Vern White reprises his role as honorary chairman for the 20th annual Wiggle Waggle Walkathon on September 7. A fundraiser for the Ottawa Humane Society, the walk at the Central Experimental Farm Arboretum is the largest event of its kind in eastern Ontario. OTTAWA HUMANE SOCIETY

Ottawa

Museum under renovation

The Canada Aviation Museum will temporarily be closed to the public this fall for extensive renovations from September 2 to mid-November. The museum is closing in preparation for its new exhibition, Canadian Wings: A Remarkable Century of Flight that will be launched in February 2009. CANADA AVIATION MUSEUM

Workers highlight labour issues

TRACEY TONG
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Members of Ottawa labour unions may have had the day off yesterday, but hundreds still had work on the brain as they brought some of the city's biggest labour issues to light yesterday.

"As our city has grown so have some of the improvements," said Ottawa and District Labour Council President Sean McKenny at the Labour Day March and Picnic yesterday.

"Although we've come a long way over the years we still have a long way to go."

Employers can treat their workers with more dignity and respect, and workers can become more aware of their rights in the workplace, he said.

Workplace safety is also a big issue, as there have been too many workplace injuries in the city this year, he said.

More than a dozen groups, including the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, ACORN, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 586, Public Service Alliance of Canada, United Steelworkers, Hospitality and Service Trades Union Local 261 and the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 793 participated in the event, which kicked off at city hall yesterday.

> **"Although we've come a long way over the years we still have a long way to go."**
> Sean McKenny

Members of the ACORN group were there to get the message out about the need for more social housing dollars. ACORN board member Sue Angus also wants more recognition for skilled immigrant workers and minimum wage to be increased to $11 an hour.

"People can't live on less than that, with the rents the way they are," she said. "Some people are spending half their income on rent, which leaves them no money to live on."

The Amalgamated Transit Union Local 279, which represents close to 3,000 OC Transpo workers, is always working towards better schedules, better benefits and good working conditions, said the local's vice-president, Garry Queale.

Eric Drouin, a member of the Ontario Nurses Association in Ottawa, said he wants to slow down privatization in health care. Drouin has seen first-hand that there aren't enough doctors and nurses to supply both systems.

'Magical' balloons get good weather

TRACEY TONG
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With a near-perfect weekend weather-wise, Gatineau's hot air balloon festival wrapped up at De La Baie Park yesterday evening.

With six out of seven planned flights proceeding over the weekend, organizers have deemed the 21st annual Festival de Montgolfieres de Gatineau "very successful."

"Six out of seven flights is quite amazing," said festival spokesman Eric Brulotte. "We've only had all the flights go twice so far in 20 years."

Hot air ballooning is very weather dependent. Flights can only take place in the morning, between 6:30 and 7:30 before the temperatures get too hot and every evening between 5:30 and 7, Brulotte said.

Wind, rain and low clouds can cancel balloon flights at a moment's notice. And all the rain the region received this summer could have been cause for concern.

There were 61 balloons at this year's festival, which is one of the biggest of its kind.

Although weekend attendance numbers were expected to exceed the 200,000 mark, the final numbers aren't expected until later this week. The festival also featured over 300 other attractions, including midway rides, a strong man competition and concerts.

"The most impressive thing about the hot air balloons is that it's really calm," Brulotte said. "It's really magical."

Cast of characters

- Hits included balloons shaped like Darth Vader, a jester, a pair of bees, a turtle named Mr. Bup and a dragon.

Movin' on in **School Daze**

ETIENNE RANGER/FOR METRO OTTAWA

Justin Hawkins, front, finds the fun in moving day as Kaylee Pare, Georgia Metcalfe and Suneet Grewal, left to right, help move boxes at Carleton University over the weekend. Thousands of students moved into the university town over the weekend as they prepare to start a new school year.

News in brief

BUS DESTROYED A fire at the main OC Transpo garage on St. Laurent Boulevard completely destroyed one bus on Saturday evening. Firefighters responded around 7:10 p.m. and had the blaze extinguished within 30 minutes. Smoke caused around $150,000 worth of damage to the garage. The fire is still under investigation.

CRASH Police are investigating a car and bicycle crash in the city's east end late Friday morning. The collision occurred on Innes Road between Anderson Road and Blackburn By-Pass East. METRO OTTAWA

Rapidz count fans as priority

CLOSER For the Ottawa Rapidz, the first season is not measured by wins or losses. "That was not our primary concern for this season," said owner Rob Hall, yesterday at the closing game of the season.

An expansion team cobbled together quickly, their 31–63 record reflected that.

The priority this season was to ensure fans enjoyed coming to the games enough to want to return. To that end, Hall said the first season was very encouraging. Despite a last place record, the Rapidz averaged 2,134 fans per game.

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Read Allan Small's Investment Perspective on why bonds are a safe and opportunistic investment when the markets are down
Check highlights and pictures from Seattle's annual Bumbershoot music and arts festival

Lotteries

Friday, Aug. 29
Lotto Super 7 1, 3, 16, 18, 22, 28 & 43. Bonus 8
Saturday, Aug. 30
Lotto 6/49 2, 26, 29, 36, 37 & 45. Bonus 31
Sunday, Aug. 31
Ontario Pick 3 587
Ontario Pick 4 0675
Encore 8038554
Daily Keno 1, 5, 17, 18, 25, 26, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 45, 49, 50, 52, 64, 65, 68, 70
Monday, Sept. 1
Ontario Pick 3 368
Ontario Pick 4 0105
Encore 3229497
Daily Keno 5, 9, 11, 13, 16, 30, 31, 33, 35, 36, 37, 43, 44, 51, 52, 53, 58, 63, 67, 68

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Memorial ceremony to take place

A memorial ceremony for the victims of Swissair Flight 111 will take place today in Peggy's Cove in Nova Scotia. Two memorials to the flight victims were established in the province. One memorial is located at Whalesback, near the crash site at Peggy's Cove. The other is near Bayswater Beach Provincial Park. METRO CANADA

Ottawa/Canada

The future of transit

OnTrack

Nadine Doolittle

nadine.doolittle@metronews.ca

Did anyone catch the picture of Mayor Larry O'Brien on an STO bus showing off a Smartcard? Good thing the mayor, Minister Jim Watson, and Councillor Alex Cullen didn't choose the OC Transpo bus at Elgin and Cooper for their photo-op last week. It burst into flames.

Bus fires notwithstanding, smart cards are a great step forward for OC Transpo and riders. Jim Watson says the cards will bring Ottawa's transit system into the 21st century. I'd just like to know how.

Over the next year, OC Transpo buses will be equipped with electronic readers that will scan and debit the fare amount from a pre-loaded card, dubbed a Smartcard. The city's $14 million investment in the contact-free technology aims to integrate OC Transpo with STO's fare collection system. Pass holders won't notice much of a difference as the cards can be configured for monthly, annual, Ecopass, semester pass, and so on. But what about ticket users? With a book of 10 tickets, I get five trips on a regular route for $10, assuming two tickets per trip. The same dollar amount loaded onto a Smartcard nets me 3.33 rides.

As much as I enjoy the simplicity and economy of the bus ticket, I know I'll have to adapt to Smartcards or learn to ride a bike. The ticket method of payment won't be around for much longer. Adult tickets are already being phased out in Toronto due to counterfeiting and Ottawa has had counterfeiting troubles of its own.

Perhaps the best benefit to this investment is that Smartcard technology can be adapted for use in Ottawa's proposed light rail network.

And considering that OC Transpo just spent $2 million for 303 new fare boxes that are designed to accept tickets, that kind of thinking ahead is one route to the 21st century.

Nadine Doolittle is an award-winning writer and a public transit user for the past 35 years.

PAUL DARROW/REUTERS

Mourners stand at the Swissair Flight 111 Memorial in Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia, yesterday. Flight 111 crashed of the coast of Nova Scotia on September 2, 1998, killing 229 people perished

Anger over Swissair remains

ROBYN YOUNG
Metro Canada

Anger is audible in Lyn Romano's voice as she explains that a decade after her husband was killed in the crash of Swissair Flight 111, she hasn't gotten over the pain.

"It doesn't matter, 10 years, 20 years, it's raw; it's very raw," she says in a phone interview from her Westchester, N.Y. home.

Today marks the tenth anniversary of the Sept. 2, 1998 crash of the passenger jetliner carrying 229 people from New York City to Geneva, Switzerland.

"It doesn't matter, 10 years, 20 years, it's raw; it's very raw."
Lyn Romano

The McDonnell-Douglas MD-11 slammed into the ocean off the coast of Nova Scotia — about 53 minutes into the flight — after an on board fire blazed out of control, causing a succession of system failures in the aircraft.

All 215 passengers and 14 crew members were killed on impact.

The devastating crash resulted in a number of safety improvements in the aviation industry.

But the Transportation and Safety Board of Canada — and the wife of Ray Romano, seat 19C — maintain it's not enough.

In March 2003, the Transportation and Safety Board of Canada released a final report on the investigation into the crash which listed 23 recommendations for regulators of the industry — only two of which have been adopted.

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the Bay

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State of emergency declared in Thailand

The Thai government has banned public gatherings in Bangkok under a state of emergency declared yesterday following violent protests. Soldiers now have police powers to keep public order, and restrictions are being imposed on media reports that "undermine public security." REUTERS

World/Business

Storm slams Louisiana

Hurricane Gustav slammed ashore on the U.S. Gulf Coast just west of New Orleans yesterdaybut rebuilt levees appeared to hold floodwaters out of the city devastated by Katrina in 2005.

Gustav weakened before hitting land with 110 mph winds, easing fears it would be another Katrina, whose floodwaters burst protective levees, swamping 80 percent of New Orleans and stranding thousands of people.

Gustav's powerful storm surge pushed tons of water into the Mississippi River, Lake Pontchartrain and New Orleans canals, putting pressure on barriers that were repaired or reconstructed after failing three years ago and prompting a tense watch for signs it would happen again.

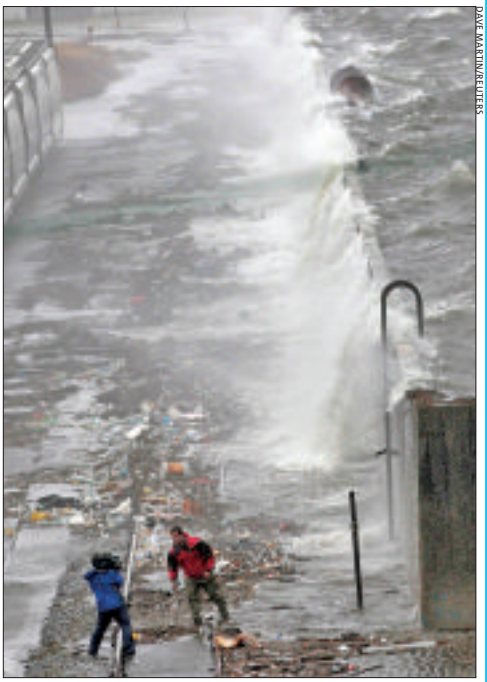
Water flowed over flood walls and spurted through cracks in the vulnerable barrier system. Six inches of water pooled in some streets near the New Orleans Industrial Canal and officials cautioned that while the levees had not been breached, they were still in danger.

But some residents emerged from boarded up homes relieved to find only broken tree branches and toppled signs."We'll still get some nasty weather but we've dodged a big-time bullet with this one," said stockbroker Peter Labouisse, sitting on the porch of his home, which was shuttered and without power.

About 750,000 customers were without electricity and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal said it could take more than two weeks to restore power to everyone. REUTERS

Oil reserves sought

- Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal called on the federal government to release emergency crude oil supplies to counteract fuel shortages due to Hurricane Gustav. "We know we are going to need this fuel by Thursday," Jindal said.



DAVE MARTIN/REUTERS

A television crew makes a report from the flood wall along the Industrial Canal in the Ninth Ward in New Orleans, La. yesterday.

Palin's teenage daughter pregnant

POLITICS The 17-year-old unmarried daughter of Republican vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin is pregnant, Palin said yesterday, in a statement released to combat online rumours that Palin faked her own pregnancy.

Bristol Palin, one of Alaska Gov. Palin's five children, is about five months pregnant, and has decided to keep the child and marry the father.

The Palins, in a statement released by the McCain campaign, said Bristol "came to us with news that we as parents knew would make her grow up faster than we had ever planned" and that their daughter "has our unconditional love and support."

According to the rumours, which were circulated on some liberal blogs, Palin faked a pregnancy and pretended to give birth — to her fifth child, a son named Trig who has Down syndrome — to cover up her daughter's pregnancy. The rumours suggested Trig was actually Bristol's child. REUTERS

Republican clash

- Riot police confronted a few hundred protesters who smashed a storefront and threw bottles at police yesterday in St. Paul, Minn., where the Republican convention is taking place. The violent group broke off from a larger, peaceful anti-Republican march.

Georgians rally against Russia

CONFLICT One-fifth of the population of Georgia protested yesterday against Russian military action and the Kremlin's backing for the country's separatist regions. Countrywide, officials said more than 1 million people took part in what authorities said was a show of unity after Russia this month crushed a Georgian bid to retake breakaway South Ossetia from separatists. The figure would account for more than a fifth of the Black Sea state's 4.5 million population. "Today we can say that Georgia is not alone, because the whole world is standing beside us," President Mikheil Saakashvili told a crowd in the capital city of Tbilisi. REUTERS

News in brief

HEALTH Young women in Australia who got the human papillomavirus vaccination were five to 20 times more likely to have a severe allergic reaction compared to other vaccines, researchers said yesterday. The reactions occurred in 12 subjects out of 114,000 who received the vaccine. The reactions were rare and manageable, they said.

CHINA An earthquake that hit China's southwest last week has killed 38 people and damaged a quarter million homes, the national news agency said yesterday. REUTERS

Business

Gustav seen as less costly than Katrina

Hurricane Gustav, which came ashore southwest of New Orleans yesterday morning, is expected to trigger significant insurance claims but far less than record-setting Katrina did three years ago.

"This is a significant, catastrophic event, but insurers anticipate these, and Gustav will be manageable from a financial perspective," said Robert Hartwig, president of the Insurance Information Institute, an industry-funded non-profit organization in New York.

EQECAT Inc, which helps insurers model catastrophe risk, said it estimated insurance losses from Hurricane Gustav, after it made landfall, will range from $6 billion to $10 billion, primarily in Louisiana.

Damage to oil platforms and wells, as well as production outages, will range from $1 billion to $3 billion, Risk Management Solutions said. Offshore damage was not as extensive as originally anticipated, said the group, which provides risk models to insurers and other financial institutions. REUTERS

Carmaker Peugeot mulls new low-cost brand: Report

AUTO French carmaker PSA Peugeot Citroen is considering launching a new brand in Europe for its low-cost vehicles, business daily La Tribune reported yesterday without identifying its sources.

It said the group was considering re-importing into western Europe future low-cost models made in emerging economies and was looking at a new brand to market the vehicles.

The newspaper said the group did not want to damage its Peugeot or Citroen brands and was instead considering using one of the existing brands it owns, such as Talbot, although it said the plan was still "at the stage of reflection." REUTERS

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EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Money: It's child's play

Your children are back to school this week and while they'll be studying up on math equations, science problems and social studies, they probably won't be learning about financial responsibility — cash, credit and consumerism. Smart Cookies say it's never too early to start talking about money. Below are some of our favourite suggestions to get the conversation started about how to save, grow and spend our cash wisely.

Allowance and Spending Decisions

• Giving children an allowance is a great way to show and tell your children about the value of money. The general Smart Cookie rule is $1 per year, per week. For example, if your child is six years old, then they would receive $6 per week. When giving children allowances, it's a good idea to give them the money in denominations that encourage saving. For example, your six-year-old could be given six loonies per week to keep in three different piggy banks — one for long-term savings, one for special purchases and one for charitable giving.

• Children take great pride in having their own bank account; this is also a great way to encourage good saving habits.

• Give your children room to make their own spending decisions. Have conversations before a purchase to weigh out the pros and cons, but ultimately give them room to make choices.

Teaching through Example

• When using a credit card at a restaurant, take the opportunity to teach children about how credit cards work. Dispel the myths that surround these pieces of plastic and explain to children how the card works, how to calculate the tip, and how you will pay this purchase off.

• Smart Cookies buy and follow stocks of companies that we are familiar with and whose products and services we use. If you want to take your financial lessons a bit further, pick a few companies your children like (toy companies, for example) and follow the stocks with your child.

• Encourage your child to take a part-time job. If he or she is too young, then perhaps your child could become a mini-entrepreneur and cut grass, shovel driveways or sell lemonade to make some extra spending money.

• Start a money group for your family. Money groups are incredibly helpful for younger children. During this time you can have open discussions about how they are doing with their saving and talk about their goals, what they are saving for and how you can help or offer suggestions on reaching that goal sooner.

Money Basics

• Introduce the idea of saving and spending. Try to explain and demonstrate the concept of earning interest on savings and paying interest on debt.

• Talk to your children about the differences between "wants" and "needs." After children are clear about the differences they will be able to make better spending decisions.

If you have questions for the Smart Cookies, please e-mail *smartcookies@metronews.ca*.

Tune in Wednesday night at 9 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network and be sure to visit smartcookies.com for more tips.

MoneyMatters

In brief

WEEKEND SPENDER

According to a recent survey, on average, Newfoundlanders spend the most money on their long weekends, with 38 per cent saying they spend more than a $1,000 on an excursion. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Investing

Allan Small looks at some bonds with good returns. Read this week's column at metronews.ca

Online goldmine

There are plenty of resources in cyberspace to help students manage loans save cash day-to-day. One of those resources is *canlearn.ca*, where you'll find advice, useful links and interactive tools such as a budget planner and a loan estimator. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Student ¢ents

Spend wisely

Bring a grocery list with you when you shop for food and watch for specials. Try to avoid doing too much shopping at convenience stores because their prices are generally higher. Consider buying generic products, and bring your lunch with you instead of eating out.

MCGILL.CA/STUDENTAID/BUDGET/BUDGETINGTIPSANDTOOLS

The lowdown on living arrangements

BRIAN TOWIE
brian.towie@metronews.ca

You're about to head off to post-secondary school for the first time and you'll be miles away from home. Your school will likely have residences, sure, but that's not your only housing option. You can also rent an apartment or a house by splitting costs with roommates.

There are advantages to both routes, so it helps to determine which fits your needs.

"Most students moving out for the first time are just excited to be out of the house and on their own," says Ian Boyko, campaigns co-ordinator for the Canadian Federation of Students. "It can be a personal choice. Often university campuses can be out of the way of the downtown core, York University (in Toronto) being a prime example of that, and the gregarious types who want to be close to their city's shops and restaurants will often find an apartment downtown and then commute to their school."

TORSTAR FILE PHOTO

In this file photo, a student hits the books at Oscar Peterson Hall, a residence at the University of Toronto's Mississauga Campus.

"Apartments are often less expensive. You don't have a meal plan and you can share costs with a roommate."
Ian Boyko

Boyko argues residences are ideal because they're close to classes, allowing you to hit that glorious snooze button a few more times in the morning than someone who has to commute. It's a good set-up for those entering their first year who have just recently cut the apron strings, says Boyko: You get to know the campus, and develop a social circle more quickly than if you lived away from the school.

"Living in residence is often a good transition step for those first years living away from home for the first time," he said.

In some cases, living in rez is an exclusive (but expensive) option available only to first-years, says Laura Walker, financial adviser at Edward Jones Investments. "Some (first-years) are coming from small towns to live in a big city," said Walker. "(Residence) gives them a sense of the area while they adjust to living on their own."

Such convenience isn't cheap. For example, a single room at the University of British Columbia's Place Vanier residence costs $4,252 per school year, without the compulsory meal plan, which at some schools will run you more than $2,000. But that tab is modest compared to some: A single room with mandatory meal plan at the University of Toronto's Chestnut Residence costs an eye-popping $13,475 for the school year.

Time for the frugal to consider off-campus options. An apartment may suit your budget and is, in most instances, less restrictive. Feel like chicken wings and tacos tonight? Indulge away, there's no fixed meal plan telling you what you can eat and when.

Want to stumble in at 3 a.m. without being hassled by campus security? Do it, so long as you don't wake the neighbours.

But with greater freedom comes more responsibility. You handle the rent, food and utility bills — a bit easier if you've got someone living with you to split the cost.

"Apartments are often less expensive," Boyko said. "You don't have a meal plan and you can share costs with a roommate. Often after a year of living in residence, a second-year student may tire of shared showers and toilets and opt for something of their own."

On the web

- Visit nation-wide housing site *homes4students.ca* for a comprehensive directory of available apartments and residences near you.

Don't wait until you're out of money to start budgeting

PLANNING For many students, going to college or university is the first time they really have to budget their money. According to Statistics Canada, Canadian full-time undergraduate students paid an average of $4,524 in tuition fees in the 2007/2008 academic year.

Depending on your location and habits, the cost of living on your own for an eight-month academic year will probably fall in the neighbourhood of $10,000 to $15,000. Don't wait until you're out of money to start budgeting or you'll end up with a stomach full of instant noodles and nothing else.

Before school, make a list of things you'll need, and have friends and family check the list for things you've forgotten or you can do without.

Calculate your cost of living and the supplies you will need for the school year — the basic cost of tuition, books, rent, utilities and food is a good place to start. Budget enough to cover these requirements and then pay yourself an allowance for recreation.

Don't beat yourself up if you blow your weekly budget at some point during the year.

If you overspend during a night out, recognize your entertainment budget has been used up — skip the next video game you were going to buy or spend the next couple of weekends catching up on reading.

Eating out can add up quickly as well, so learn to cook or pack snacks. Also, try leaving your credit card at home; it's surprising how much harder it is to splurge that way.

Even if you are sticking to your budget, you need to make the most of your resources.

Do research and consult deal web sites such as *RedFlagDeals.com* before making purchases to maximize savings, because when emergencies hit, they can hit hard.

A beer shortage or lack of the latest clothes is not an emergency, but having to travel home unexpectedly or having to replace something important like text books, a computer, or car brakes can be.

NEWS CANADA

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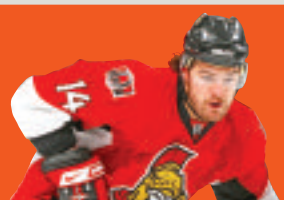
NFL
The Detroit Lions have reportedly signed free agent running back Rudi Johnson to a one-year contract. The Detroit Free Press indicated yesterday that Johnson will likely replace Tatum Bell as rookie running back Kevin Smith's backup. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



Bolts lock up Meszaros

The Tampa Bay Lightning have signed newly acquired defenceman Andrej Meszaros, left, to a six-year contract. Meszaros was acquired from the Ottawa Senators on Friday in exchange for defencemen Filip Kuba and Alexandre Picard, as well as a first-round draft pick in 2009.
Metro News Services

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

A perplexing first half

Argos battling for basement, Eskimos look impressive

YorkReport

Marty York
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When the CFL season kicked off, the Toronto Argonauts were favoured by oddsmakers to win the Grey Cup championship.

Two months later, as they concluded the first half of their season last night, they weren't even favoured to beat the league's perennial dregs in Hamilton.

Well, they defied the odds. The Argos did just enough to defeat the Tiger-Cats 34-31 — Toronto's first victory in three games this season with its geographic rivals — and probably saved their coach's job in the process.

As reported first in this space last week, Rich Stubler probably would have been fired as the Argos' coach had the Ticats been able to pull off the trifecta against Toronto.

But, despite a sloppy performance that included a botched field goal, missed tackles and the hot-dogging of a receiver (Arland Bruce) who insisted on placing his face in a Spider-Man mask after scoring a touchdown, the Argos did just enough to emerge triumphant.

And, with a 4-5 record, they're somehow in position to challenge the first-place Montreal Alouettes for Eastern Division supremacy in the second half.

Mind you, if the CFL's second half turns out to be as weird as the first half was, well, who knows?

I was thoroughly perplexed with the first half. I mean, you learn to expect the unexpected in the CFL if you've covered the league for nearly 30 years, but this first half was just too much.

You were psychic if you knew:

- The Edmonton Eskimos would register one more victory in their first nine games this season than they did all last season, when they finished out of the playoffs with a 5-12-1 record. This team was so inept in 2007 that head coach Danny Maciocia could have written a book on how to single-handedly destroy a CFL franchise. Maciocia, though, somehow evaded the firing line and his team has responded with an impressive rebound. In fact, after trouncing the Stampeders in Calgary yesterday, the Esks look very much like the team to beat in the CFL. And Edmonton quarterback Ricky Ray was the league's top player in the first half.
- The Winnipeg Blue Bombers, Eastern Division representatives in the Grey Cup last season, would be the league's worst team, with only two victories.
- The B.C. Lions would be in the Western Division cellar, and star running back Joe Smith would be in their doghouse.
- Montreal would be atop the East with a head coach, Marc Trestman, who had no CFL experience whatsoever.

Yep, it's been weird. Fasten your seatbelts for the second half.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

MIKE CASSESE/REUTERS

Toronto Argonauts receiver Arland Bruce III is tackled by Tiger-Cats' Chris Tompson, left, and Ryan Glasper during the Labour Day Classic last night in Hamilton. Bruce caught a first-half touchdown as part of a 34-31 Argonauts' victory.

Singh running away with FedEx Cup

GOLF Vijay Singh, helped by three monster birdie putts, eased to his third PGA Tour title in five weeks with a commanding five-shot victory at the Deutsche Bank Championship yesterday.

Three off the pace overnight, the Fijian world No. 5 fired a superb eight-under-par 63 in difficult, sun-drenched conditions at the TPC Boston for a 22-under total of 262.

Singh broke clear of a congested leaderboard with an outward nine of four-under 32 before tightening his grip with an astonishing putting display on a course running fast and firm.

Singh

Mike Weir of Bright's Grove, Ont., one ahead going into the final round, surrendered the outright lead with a double-bogey at the ninth and had to settle for second place after closing with a 71.

South African Ernie Els birdied the last for a 70 to share third at 14 under with Colombian Camilo Villegas (73).

"I feel incredible right now," a beaming Singh said after pocketing the $1.26 million US winner's check for the second week in a row in the lucrative FedEx Cup playoff series.

"It was a tough day and I knew the greens were going to be firm. I drove the ball beautifully and kept the ball in play, never got myself into much trouble.

"I've never felt this comfortable on the greens," added the 45-year-old who has recently convinced himself that he is the best putter in the world.

"I've been struggling all year but I had a good attitude change."

Singh will now travel to St. Louis for this week's BMW Championship as the runaway FedEx Cup points leader.

REUTERS

Sports in brief

TENNIS Top seed Rafael Nadal secured a place in the quarter-finals of the U.S. Open with a 6-2, 5-7, 7-6, 6-3 win over American Sam Querrey yesterday. On the women's side, seventh seed Venus Williams set up a quarter-final against her sister Serena after she eased past Polish ninth seed Agnieszka Radwanska 6-1, 6-3.

SOCCER English club Manchester City acquired Brazilian forward Robinho from Real Madrid yesterday. The fee believed to be a British record 32.5 million pounds ($62 million). REUTERS

SCOREBOARD

MLB

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Boston 7 Baltimore 4
Cleveland 5 Chicago White Sox 0
N.Y. Yankees 13 Detroit 9
Seattle at Texas

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Arizona 8 St. Louis 6
Colorado 4 San Francisco 0
Florida 4 Atlanta 3
Houston 3 Chicago Cubs 0
N.Y. Mets 4 Milwaukee 2
Washington 7 Philadelphia 4
San Diego at L.A. Dodgers

TONIGHT'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Baltimore at Boston, 7:05
L.A. Angels at Detroit, 7:05
Chicago W. Sox at Cleveland, 7:05
Minnesota at Toronto, 7:07
N.Y. Yankees at Tampa Bay, 7:10
Seattle at Texas, 8:05
Oakland at Kansas City, 8:10

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Atlanta at Florida, 7:10
Philadelphia at Washington, 7:10
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 7:10
N.Y. Mets at Milwaukee, 8:05
Houston at Chicago Cubs, 8:05
San Francisco at Colorado, 8:35
St. Louis at Arizona, 9:40
San Diego at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10

CFL

WEEK 10
YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Edmonton 37 Calgary 16
Toronto 34 Hamilton 31
SUNDAY'S RESULT
Saskatchewan 19 Winnipeg 6
FRIDAY'S RESULT
Montreal 30 B.C. 25

BASEBALL

CAN-AM LEAGUE GAMES FEATURING THE OTTAWA RAPIDZ:
YESTERDAY'S RESULT
Worcester 8 Ottawa 3

Learning Curve is a monthly feature that focuses on education and student life. Next month's issue comes out on Oct. 14.

Learning Curve

Transition time for students

ERIC EMIN WOOD
for Metro Canada

The transition to academic mode after a comparatively relaxing summer can be a difficult one for both veteran post-secondary students and those entering university or college for the first time.

For instance, many first-year students have to deal "with just the physical aspects of moving, and that in itself can be stressful," says Dr. Cheryl Washburn, director of counselling services at the University of British Columbia. "Often this is the first time they're away from family."

Other students discover their study habits from high school don't necessarily work in university.

"Students put a lot of pressure on themselves and often end up feeling quite badly" when their grades slip, says Washburn.

Recognizing that such results are normal can go a long way toward helping students feel comfortable, she says.

Time management is key for every student, whether in first year or fourth, says Christine Squire, academic advisor and coordinator of the first-year advising program at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

"A lot of people think they know how to do it, but in reality they're just always flying by the seat of their pants," she says.

> **"A lot of students coming from high school don't know why they're here; they just know that they're expected to come to university."**
> Christine Squire

Transitional difficulties don't disappear from one year to the next, says Squire, they just take on different forms.

"A lot of students coming in from high school don't know why they're here; they just know that they're expected to come to university," she says.

"As students get older they know what they want to do, it's just a matter of learning how to reach that end-goal."

Washburn advises students to make sure they're taking care of the basics.

"Things like sleep, nutrition, exercise, connecting with friends, keeping a balance in your life, oftentimes that gets compromised," she says. She also encourages students to seek help when they're having difficulty.

Squire admits it's difficult balancing school, work and a social life, which is why Dalhousie's first-year advising program offers sessions in subjects such as time management. "It's super important to find that balance," she says.

The transition from high school to post-secondary education can be more than an academic adjustment.

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Dealing with September stress

BRIAN TOWIE
brian.towie@metronews.ca

Sheets of paper containing your welcome letter and course requirements tremble in your sweaty hand. Your mind races with thoughts of bad grades, potential money troubles and dealing with unfriendly peers as you slowly and hesitantly approach your first class of the year. It feels like there's a boa constrictor slithering around in your stomach as you turn the doorknob, and walk into the room.

Welcome to September, one of the most stressful times of the year for those returning to school. But you can manage it, if you keep your focus on what you need to do. The keys are these: Block out the distractions, keep your eyes on the books and should you become overwhelmed, seek help.

Dr. Mark Berber, psychiatrist and professor at the University of Toronto, defines stress as the physical and psychological response to a challenge. The scenario for returning students, he notes, is "the challenge of newness."

"It's the novelty of college or university," Berber said. "This is where the anxiety primarily comes from. They've been taken out of what normal is for them and put into something very different. It's especially true for high school students — where the regime is much more organized — entering university, where the burden of success is on the student."

Berber says the first semester of any school year is the most difficult and important, often acting as a kind of sieve that weeds out the uncommitted and reveals the mettle of the dedicated student.

Now is the time to counter the stress by developing work habits that will serve you throughout the year, but pub nights and parties are everywhere, ready to rob you of valuable study time.

> **"(Students) should be focusing on their academics, then integrating social events. A good way is to confine your fun to the weekend."**
> Dr. Mark Berber

"Students underestimate the amount of material to digest in the first trimester, but once they fall behind it's very difficult to get catch up," he said. "They should be focusing on their academics, then integrating social events. A good way is to confine your fun to the weekend."

You've heeded the advice and the work is still too overwhelming. Fear not: More than likely your school has a number of campus counselors on-hand to assess your situation and help you through it, along with a number of online resources they might provide. The University of Alberta, for example, has a web page on how to "get your degree without losing your mind," (http://www.ualberta.ca/dept/health/web_docs/health-info/stress.hm) offering relaxation techniques, and time managing improvement skills. Simon Fraser University has an online interactive "wellness wheel," where you can gage your level of stress and how to decrease it. (http://students.sfu.ca/health/healthpromotion/wheel.html)

Beyond that, experts advise that putting up and shutting up is the worse thing you can possibly do.

"Be passionate about your learning. There are no real shortcuts to your education," Berber said. "But if you're in trouble, don't bottle it in. Find a counselor to help you deal with it."

Circumcision problems impair HIV prevention
African health workers need more training and better tools to circumcise men and boys safely for HIV prevention, according to a World Health Organisation (WHO) study chronicling "shocking" rates of complications. REUTERS

Health

"Quitting brings people back from isolation. Absolutely."
Rosemary Munro, a Toronto addiction counsellor

Sip for a cause

Fifteen cents from every canister of Tetley Inspire Summerberry herbal tea bearing the pink ribbon ($3.29), left, will be contributed to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.
METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Love life up in smoke

Cigarettes not just harmful to health: Survey

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada

Not only is smoking bad for your health, it's bad for your love life.

A survey recently conducted by Lavalife and McNeil Consumer Healthcare has found that 47 per cent of singles wouldn't consider dating a smoker. "They don't want to kiss someone with the smell of cigarettes," suggests Rosemary Munro, an addiction counsellor in Toronto, Ont.

There are many diseases linked to smoking — cancer, heart disease, stroke, emphysema, impotence, and mouth diseases. Yet for some young people, those health problems may seem too far in the future to be a threat. Perhaps a more immediate risk — loneliness on Friday night — will spur some to quit.

"They may be more apt to consider stopping for that reason than health," says Munro.

The survey asked 6,313 singles if they were likely to date someone who smokes. Single women, in particular (51 per cent) said they wouldn't want to hook up with a smoker. A slightly lower number of men (43 per cent) found smoking too much of an "ick" factor.

Smokers who are already part of a couple shouldn't assume their smoking is acceptable to their partner. They may be getting "the talk" sometime soon from their grossed-out significant other. The survey interviewed 4,694 people who are already dating a smoker. A whopping 81 per cent of them said they are likely to ask their partner to quit smoking (58 per cent of them said there are "very likely" to ask). Lavalife is an online dating service. McNeil Consumer Healthcare owns and markets Nicorette gum and lozenges and the Nicoderm patch.

Unlike several decades ago, thanks to public health messages about its dangers, smoking finally has a bad rap socially. "Smokers are really ostracized now," says Munro. "Smoking is a way of isolating oneself. They have to go outside to smoke. They shut themselves away."

Munro helps people overcome addictions such as smoking, many of which serve to insulate people from friends and family. "Quitting brings people back from isolation. Absolutely," she says.

Quitting tips

- Spend time psychologically preparing.
- Don't try to quit suddenly.
- Exercise regularly
- Cut down on cravings, especially in the first six weeks, by using some form of nicotine replacement

CELIA MILNE/
FOR METRO CANADA

DAVID BEBBER/REUTERS

Forty-seven per cent of singles wouldn't date a smoker, a recent survey suggests.

Gaining a firm grip on unreality

HineSight

Anne Hines

This week, my 18-year-old daughter, Becky, leaves for summer camp. It's a very nice camp. Instead of tents, they have "dormitories." And their first evening campfire activity is called a "keg party."

Some of you may be thinking, "Hmm … it sounds as if Becky is going to university." If my daughter were going to university, this would mean that a) I am old, b) she's leaving me and c) I am old. She's going to camp.

It's just possible that I'm in denial. Denial is the fine art of being able to look reality full in the face and say, "No, no, I don't see anything at all."

Denial gets us through Canadian winters by saying, "Well, it can't last forever," when anyone who was in Calgary this past June knows that it absolutely can. Denial allows my sister, Kathryn, to say, "Vodka is made from potatoes. This martini is my vegetables for the day."

A simple test to know if you're in denial is to ask:

1) Am I happy?

2) Does the world seem a lovely and supportive place?

3) Do I still believe, at 2 a.m., that the piece of Ikea furniture will go together and side A will stand up in slot B, in spite of everything I've ever heard about gravity?

If your answer to any of these questions was, "yes" or "I think Brad Pitt's waiting until I express interest to leave Angie," chances are, you're in denial.

Some people would say that the way to cope with my daughter leaving is to talk it over with a therapist. If you ask me, the worst time to visit a therapist is when you're having problems. The first thing they want to do is drag out everything that's upsetting you in the first place.

What we need are denial therapists: trained professionals who encourage us to get a good firm grip on unreality. Something like this:

Denial allows my sister... to say, "Vodka is made from potatoes. This martini is my vegetables for the day."

You: I'm having a problem with my mother.

Denial Therapist: Forget about it. Have a chocolate chip cookie.

You: I don't know where my life is going.

D.T.: Try cleaning out your closet. Maybe it will go away.

So, Becky is going to camp. I am not old. The Leafs will win the Stanley cup.

And it's not going to snow until December. No, February. Maybe never. I'm in denial. And life is good.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

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The New Beginnings of Autumn

As we prepare to say goodbye to summer, we also prepare to say goodbye to children heading off to school. Some may be university bound and heading out of town while, each day, younger students will make their way to grade school or high school.

One of the best things we can do to give them the best chance to succeed is to look after their total health. And that means **looking after their dental health.**

So what are some of the things you can do to protect their dental health?

1. Make sure they **are using a mouthguard** when playing sports. Even if they are already wearing a face shield, a mouthguard provides the teeth with extra protection in the event of a jarring collision. If your child does not have a mouthguard, we would be happy to arrange an appointment to custom fit one for him/her. **We also recommend storing them in an antibacterial solution and storage system when they are not in use**. Without one, a mouthguard can become home to all kinds of unwelcome bacteria, some of which have been linked to asthma and infections in children wearing those mouthguards. **The Fresh One** is an ideal storage system and we would be happy to provide you with one free of charge with your custom mouthguard.

2. Encourage healthy eating habits. It is not easy to watch what our kids eat, but the more we can steer them toward **healthy foods like apples, milk or even water**, the better. That means steering them away from soft drinks, not an easy task with teenagers, but much better for their teeth and their overall health.

Healthy Habits Lead to Healthy Lives
Dr. Peter Georgopoulos
Dental Surgeon

3. Brush! Brush! Brush! This is so important, **we will provide all new patients with a free Oral B electric toothbrush.** You should make sure your kids bring a toothbrush to school with them for after lunch. Of course, make sure they have a germ free place to store it and that they **bring it home every week so you can run it through the dishwasher** (with electric toothbrushes, only the brush head goes in the dishwasher). Believe it or not, this is one of the most effective ways to reduce the amount of germs that can otherwise build up on a brush.

4. Visit the dentist! The old saying that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" applies as much to the dentist as it does to the family doctor. **Bring your kids to see the dentist before they get too busy with school and other activities.** They may not be complaining of any problems now. Our goal to keep it that way.

All of these measures are great ways to have your children start the year in great dental health. **Poor dental health can have a negative impact upon their academic performance.**

In fact, in the U.S., **tooth decay is the most chronic health condition among school aged children today.** The number of school days missed due to toothaches is astronomical. And children do not learn when they are away from school or in too much discomfort to concentrate.

You want the best for your children. So contact your dentist today to make sure they start the year in great oral health. Because doing well in school is a healthy habit… and healthy habits lead to healthy lives.

Reubens denies CSI rumour
Actor Paul Reubens has denied reports he will make a return to TV opposite Laurence Fishburne in the hit U.S. show CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. IMDB.COM

Entertainment

Casting Crowe
Russell Crowe is set to play Sherlock Holmes' sidekick Dr Watson in Guy Ritchie's new film. He will star opposite Robert Downey Jr. as the fictional sleuth's confidante. IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Box office

Estimated weekend ticket sales at U.S. and Canadian theatres:

1. **Tropic Thunder:** $14.3 million US
2. **Babylon A.D.:** $12 million
3. **The Dark Knight:** $11 million
4. **The House Bunny:** $10.2 million
5. **Traitor:** $10 million
6. **Death Race:** $8.2 million
7. **Disaster Movie:** $6.9 million
8. **Mamma Mia!:** $5.8 million
9. **Pineapple Express:** $4.5 million
10. **Vicky Cristina Barcelona:** $3.5 million

REUTERS

T.I. sets record with new single

MUSIC Rapper T.I. has set a new record for the biggest leap to the top of Billboard's Hot 100 singles chart.

His new tune, Whatever You Like, soared 70 places to No. 1 in its third week on the list, thanks to a No. 1 opening on the Hot Digital Songs chart with 205,000 downloads.

The old record for the biggest leap to the top was held by Maroon 5's Makes Me Wonder, which jumped 63 places in May 2007. Whatever You Like marks T.I.'s first No. 1 as a lead artist.

REUTERS

Not worth cost of Diesel

Babylon A.D. has been trashed by its own director

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Babylon A.D.
Director: Mathieu Kassovitz
Stars: Vin Diesel, Michelle Yeoh
Classification: 14A
Rating: ½

Actor Vin Diesel makes Stephen Dorff look like Benicio del Toro in the new movie Babylon A.D.

REVIEW Set in a dystopian future, Babylon A.D. stars Vin Diesel as Tooroop, a mercenary who, after sitting down to a nice furry-animal stir-fry, is kidnapped and bribed to escort a young woman (who's either the new Messiah or infected with a deadly virus — we ain't sure) from Russia to America.

Partnered with her chaperone (Michelle Yeoh), the trio hitches a ride on an old submarine, elude cultists and even outrun supersonic jets on ski-doos.

Awkward as that sounds, this film once held a lot of promise. The story carries similar themes of such post-apocalyptic fare as Children of Men and Blade Runner; the film looks impressively-designed and it was co-written and directed by Mathieu Kassovitz who made the stunning 1995 film La Haine (see it if you haven't). So, why then, is it such a mess?

Firstly, although Diesel has never been known for his subtlety, in this, he makes Stephen Dorff look like Benicio del Toro. Still, I could've gotten by that if all the action sequences — which are the bait of a movie like this — didn't look like they were filmed by an epileptic orangutan.

According to Kassovitz (who trashed the movie himself), the studio interfered with the production and even had the film chopped down to 90 minutes. He's described it as violent, stupid and said it looked like a "bad episode of 24." Trust me — take his word for it.

DVD picks

Married Life

Director: Ira Sachs
Rating: PG

MURDER and adultery are by definition passionate things, steeped as they are in hot-blooded emotion. Yet, darned if Married Life doesn't find a way to drain the fervour out of both.

Writer/director Ira Sachs manages even greater sorcery. He turns four good actors into wooden puppets. Set in 1949 New York, Cooper is Harry, a businessman who desperately wants to leave his wife, Pat (Patricia Clarkson), because she is interested in sex, not true affection. He plots her murder to spare her the pain of divorce.

Harry is in love with the much younger Kay (McAdams), a blond tootsie who has seen a Jean Harlow movie or three. Pierce Brosnan is Harry's pal Richard, whose loyalty is tested when Kay bats her eyebrows in his direction.

It's strange how a movie with this many different things happening could be so dull. The pacing is positively funereal.

The DVD extras offer some intrigue the movie is missing. Besides Sachs' commentary track, there are no fewer than three alternate endings, which makes Married Life a bit like playing Clue — which, come to think of it, is just like real matrimony.

The Nightmare Before Christmas Collector's Edition

Director: Tim Burton
Rating: PG

THIS THREE-DISC Collector's Edition (weirdly labelled two discs on the box) includes almost all of the great extras from the earlier Special Edition: everything from deleted scenes to storyboards to two great shorts by director Tim Burton.

The major new contribution to this set is a revised commentary by Burton, director Henry Selick (James and the Giant Peach) and composer Danny Elfman.

There's also a digital version so you can put this Nightmare on your laptop, iPod or iPhone and enjoy a frighteningly good scene at any time.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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History of British law coming to TV near you

IntelleVision

DOWN BY LAW: The fall TV season is lumbering off the blocks, with dozens of new shows premiering in the weeks to come, alongside returning series. Keeping up will be hard, and I'll try to preview some of the more interesting shows coming out, but the truth is the most interesting shows are on cable and specialty channels — a state of affairs that's become more and more undeniable with every year I've written about television.

While he's probably most famous for playing Baldrick on the British comedy series Blackadder, documentary TV buffs will recognize the puckish Tony Robinson from his role as host of Time Team, the archaeology series that's been in production for almost 15 years in the U.K., and various spin-off shows such as The Worst Jobs In History and as narrator on the reality/documentary series Airline. He's the host of a new show, Tony's Law, premiering tonight on History Television, an intriguing four-part series that looks at the evolution of the British laws that should be of interest to Canadians inasmuch as they form the basis for our own legal system.

Robinson provides the same droll, digressive persona that gave Worst Jobs its tone, with a tad more gravitas in keeping with the subject at hand, though Robinson is fond of dressing up in bits of period costume and reciting speeches on London street corners. At least one episode, though, is startlingly topical, given the spectre of terrorism and debates going on in this country right now, and Robinson traces the evolution of free speech, a pillar of enlightened civil society, back to Sir Thomas More and the tyranny of Henry VIII, through the Gunpowder Plot and the beheading of Charles I and the Glorious Revolution.

Robinson drolly points out that it would be 300 years between Charles' trial and execution, and the next time a British royal would be taken to court was a 2002 trial where Princess Anne paid £1,000 after one of her dogs bit two children at Windsor. English history, it's hard not to note with envy, is full to bursting with great stories.

It's also hard to believe that Canada has been largely unable to produce cheap, cheerful, informative shows like Tony's Law in quantity for the CBC and our variety of cable, specialty and educational channels. Self-denigrating myths to the contrary, we don't lack the history, and we certainly don't suffer from a shortage of experts. With the exception of Jeff "I Am Canadian" Douglas, though, it's hard to name any actor, journalist or public figure eager to moonlight as the public face of such a show, which might be the problem.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Former Bachelor to unite couple

Pappas

TV Bachelorette DeAnna Pappas and her fiancé, Jesse Csincsak, are getting married next year — and in a twist befitting their reality-TV romance, former Bachelor Andy Baldwin will perform the ceremony, intouchweekly.com reports. "Andy is a certified minister," an insider explains.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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primetime

OT	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
9/2/08	265	353	2 TVO	Undersea Exp.	Parks	The Agenda With Steve Paikin		No Tears		The Autism Puzzle		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3 GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	90210 "We're Not in Kansas Anymore; The Jet Set" (N)				Big Brother 10 (N)		News (N)
	-	-	5 SRC	Des squelettes	Tout	Beautés désespérées (SC)		Bons baisers de France (SC)		Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)		TJ Ontario
	209	342	6 CHRO	Robson Arms	TMZ (N)	America's Got Talent (Live)				Wanna Bet? (N)		News
	196	311	7 CTV	Hollywood	eTalk	Canadian Idol	The Hills	Without a Trace		Law & Order: SVU		News (N)
	208	303	8 CBC	Coronation St.	Laughs	Rick Mercer	22 Minutes	The Tudors (DVS)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	-	360	9 NBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	America's Got Talent (Live)				Republican Convention		News (N)
	117	713	10 TVA	Km/h (SC)	Vidéos	Histoires-filles	Caméra café	La Promesse (SC)		TVA 22 heures	Sucré-salé	Las Vegas
	-	-	11 QS	Catherine (SC)	10 façons	*Le Regard d'une mère* (2007, Suspense) Kelly Rutherford.				Cent dix pour cent (SC)		Vie de couple
	137	763	12 TFO	Panorama été	Les Éclaireurs	Tournants	Histoires oub.	*Hélas pour moi* (1992, Drame), Bernard Verly			Jardins	Geographic
	-	362	13 CBS	Dr. Phil		NCIS "Judgment Day"		Big Brother 10 (N)		Republican Convention		Two/Half Men
	216	395	14 OMN2	Cold Case "Family"		News (N)		News (N)		2Half Men	King	Cold Case
	214	344	15 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		*Rain Man* ★★★★ (1988, Comedy-Drama) Dustin Hoffman, Tom Cruise, Valeria Golino.						News (N)
	115	343	16 CFMT	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	218	345	18 E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Real Housewives of OC		Simple Life	Kardashians	Pam: On Loose	Sunset Tan	News (N)
	-	361	20 ABC	News (N)	Entertainment	Wipeout		(9:02) Wanna Bet? (N)		Republican Convention		News (N)
	512	396	24 CPAC	Tête-à-tête	Beyond Poli	À la une		Dossier public				À la une
	651	355	25 CTS	Happy Days	Laverne	Michael Coren Show		100 Huntley Street (N)		Life Today	This Is Day	John Hagee
	-	365	36 FOX	TMZ (N)	Seinfeld	House "House's Head; Wilson's Heart" (HDTV PA)				News (N)		News
	-	-	64 PBS	Business Rpt.	Uncorked	Republican National Convention (HDTV) Coverage of the proceedings. (Live)						Tavis Smiley
	205	312	104 CTV	Hollywood	eTalk	Canadian Idol	The Hills	Without a Trace		Law & Order: SVU		News (N)
news	502	390	26 NW	CBC News	Politics	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Prince of Pot-US vs Emery		National
	500	500	33 CNN	(6) Republican National Convention Coverage of the Republican National Convention.								
sports	406	417	27 net	MLB Baseball Minnesota Twins at Toronto Blue Jays. From Rogers Centre in Toronto.						Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet Con.
	126	730	28 RDI	RDI en direct sur l'actualité		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		Élections prés	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30 TSN	U.S. Open Tennis Men's Fourth Round and Women's Quarterfinals. (HDTV) (Live)								SportsCentre
	410	403	52 SCR	Cabby Unlimit	Stump-Schwab	World Series of Poker		Poker: Canadian Open		Score Tonight		Final Score
	411	457	56 OLN	Ed's Up	Videos	Survivorman		Angry Planet	Surf Patrol	Don't Forget Your Passport		Pilot Guides
	417	406	59 SC	Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	Unique Whips		Low Life	SuperCars	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Pinks (HDTV)
family	554	544	48 TEL	George-Jungle	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Sixteen	Total Drama	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Rick & Steve
	557	540	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	551	542	65 YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Improve.	Prank Patrol	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline Proj	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.
	570	580	29 MM	mmmtop	Where You At	MuchMoreMusicBio		Listed		Rock the Cradle		Party of Five
	615	520	31 A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The Cleaner (HDTV) (N)		The Cleaner
	628	584	32 SPKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		*Star Wars IV: A New Hope* ★★★★ (1977, Science Fiction) Mark Hamill.				
	521	560	34 TLC	Twins, Twins & More Twins		160 Lb. Tumor (HDTV)		Mystery Diagnosis		Dr. G: Medical Examiner		160 Lb. Tumor
	145	761	35 TV5	Toute une histoire		Pas bête		Pétrole, le début de la fin		Si j'avais un chapeau		Journal TV5
	616	521	39 SHO	About a Girl	About a Girl	The Best Years (DVS)		Trailer Park	Trailer Park	House "Euphoria"		House
	620	523	40 BVO	Bazart	Bravo!Videos	*A Mighty Wind* ★★★ (2003, Comedy)			Bravonews	Live at the Rehearsal Hall		Law & Order
	520	505	42 DIS	Daily Planet (N)		How It's Made	How It's Made	Smash Lab		After the Catch "Brothers" (N)		Daily Planet
	575	583	43 CMT	Canada Countdown		Top 20 Steamiest Video		Reba	Hope & Faith	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	CMT30
	601	562	45 SLC	End of Leash	ET Canada	Newlywed	In Laws	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Plastic-Perfect	Matchmaker	Newlywed
	625	548	46 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Comedy Inc.	Jon Dore Show	Daily Show
	294	529	47 TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	*Above the Rim* ★★ (1994, Drama) Duane Martin, Leon.				Frasier	Frasier	Seinfeld
	600	564	49 H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Dirty Business	Outside	Colin & Justin's Home Heist		The Stagers	Green Force	Holmes-Homes
	627	528	50 SPC	Stargate SG-1 (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager	On the Buses	*Trekkies 2* ★★ (2004, Documentary)				Stargate SG-1
	581	566	53 MTV	Busted	After	Canada's Next Top Model		Making the Band 4 (N)		From G's to Gents (N)		MTV Live
	618	524	54 TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210		Planet Soap	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	King	Family Guy
	522	506	55 HIS	NCIS "Shalom"		The Worst Jobs in History		Tony's Law British law.		NCIS "Shalom"		Crime Stories
	129	773	60 CD	Biographies "Sylvie Fréchette"		Mayday (HDTV)		Images-chocs		Un tueur si proche (HDTV)		Docu-D
	261	394	61 V	Murder, She Wrote		Eyes Down	On the Buses	Quantum Leap		*Agatha* ★★★ (1979, Romance)		
	602	567	62 W	Will & Grace	Friends	Coleen's Real Women		Style by Jury	Style by Jury	How to Look Good Naked (N)		Maxed Out
	269	350	70 APTN	Wilpogwad	La Course	Regards	Presserebel	Guides	Tears	Songcatchers		Suaangan
	621	527	71 TLK	Look-A-Like	Hollywood	TMZ (N)	eTalk	To Be Announced		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		eTalk
	603	561	95 FN	Grill It-Flay	Licence to Grill	Restaurant Makeover		HEAT-McEwan	HEAT-McEwan	Top Chef		Restaurant

cable variety

critics' corner

A Mighty Wind
Writer-director Christopher Guest applies the humorous approach that was successful for him in "Best in Show" and "Waiting for Guffman" to this equally sly 2003 comedy about the folk-music world. A promoter's death unites three of the groups he represented, but not all of the members are eager to take part in a tribute concert. Guest stars include ex-"Spinal Tap"-mates Michael McKean and Harry Shearer, as well as Parker Posey. 8 PM on 40 BVO

The Cleaner
Is this a simple case of addiction or a death wish? In the new episode "House of Pain," William (Benjamin Bratt) is asked to help a promising prep-school basketball player with a multiple drug problem. The youngster's father resists his efforts, but a bigger problem is the boy himself, whose reckless behavior tells William that he may be trying to kill himself. 10 PM on 31 A&E

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Star photog snaps back at debt talk

Celebrity photographer Annie Leibovitz, who came under fire for singer-actress Miley Cyrus' provocative Vanity Fair shoot in May, has denied claims she is more than $715,000 US in debt. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Lindsay after Olympic star

PEOPLE Lindsay Lohan has reportedly been pleading with Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps for a date, imdb.com reports.

The actress is said to have bombarded the U.S. gold-medal winner with calls and text messages asking him to take her out.

His cool response hasn't put her off, because the more he ignores her, the harder she tries.

"At first he thought it was a joke when she got in touch. But she's since been phoning and texting constantly," a source tells Britain's Daily Mirror. "It's become a running joke in his camp. Lindsay has been trying to meet up with him. They're both going to the MTV Video Music Awards next month so they'll be sure to see each other properly then.

Phelps is certainly flattered by all the attention but it's not clear how seriously he's taking it all."

According to People magazine, however, Phelps is enjoying single life.

"I don't feel any different," he says, 14 Olympic medals later. "I'm just having fun with this."

Rumours had Phelps dating Nicole Johnson, a former Miss California USA runner-up.

"I never said I have a girlfriend, and I never said I don't have a girlfriend," Phelps tells People. "My public and private life are separate. I keep my private life to myself."

Johnson tells reporters she and Phelps are "good friends."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

David opens up about sex

PEOPLE David Duchovny has never been one to shy away from the topic of sex in interviews over the years, People.com reports.

But the actor, who has now entered a rehabilitation centre for sex addiction, was always quick to add that his marriage to actress Téa Leoni was a pretty good reason to keep his libido in check.

"Twelve years ago, I would have been hard-pressed to understand why I'd want to be involved sexually with one person this long," the X Files and Californication actor told Best Life magazine earlier this year.

"Before Téa, the longest my intense sexual interest would last would be maybe two years," he said. "But the real rewards of a relationship come after you've been together a while. That's where Téa and I are lucky."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Beau didn't buy Naomi house

COUPLES Supermodel Naomi Campbell has denied reports she accepted an expensive gift from boyfriend Vladimir Doronin — a new home in Brazil, imdb.com reports.

The catwalk star also insisted she doesn't allow men to buy her presents.

"If I want to buy a house, I'll buy my own," she says. "I don't need a man for that."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Too busy for baby: Victoria

PEOPLE Victoria Beckham has laughed off reports that she is eager for a fourth child, because she is far too busy looking after her three sons, imdb.com reports.

The singer has spoken about her desire for a new baby in the past, but insists now is not the right time to add to her brood with soccer ace husband David.

"I can't even think about having another baby right now. The boys take up so much of my time," she says. "Life is busy in Los Angeles, because Brooklyn's got football, Romeo's got gymnastics and Cruz has break dancing. Plus they have school commitments."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

James ties the knot

COUPLES James Gandolfini and fiancée Deborah Lin tied the knot Saturday in her hometown of Honolulu, Hawaii, People.com reports.

"There was a nice big kiss at the end with both hands on the cheeks" as The Sopranos star and Lin officially became husband and wife, the guest tells People. "They looked great."

As a group of their closest friends and family looked on, Gandolfini, 46, and Lin, a former model, 40, exchanged their vows in an intimate ceremony surrounded by white lilies and rhododendrons adorning every pew held at Central Union Church.

According to the guest, Lin strolled down the aisle in a white gown made of Italian lace while her tuxedoed groom stood waiting as a harpist played the Hawaiian Wedding Song in the background.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Sienna shuns bodyguards

PEOPLE Actress Sienna Miller shrugs off bodyguards because she likes to pretend she isn't famous, imdb.com reports.

"When I'm not working, I want to be myself," she says. "I don't have assistants, bodyguards or even a driver because I try to pretend in my own head that this isn't happening."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Ashlee blasts weighty story

PEOPLE Pregnant singer Ashlee Simpson has hit out at reports she is desperate to lose her baby weight, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

In a posting on her MySpace blog, Simpson writes: "My weight and my pant size are the absolute last thing I am concerned about. I am only concerned with having a healthy pregnancy and a healthy baby."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

"This makes no sense at all..."

by Joe O'Neill

So actor **David Duchovny** is in a rehab centre for sex addiction. In other news, the television series Californication, in which he plays a writer struggling with his compulsive desire to bed women, is just about to debut its second season. Coincidence? I wonder.

Remember when actors simply did the talk-show circuit to hype their projects? Now, it appears that some public relations genius heard about the method acting technique and decided to apply it, in reverse, to publicize shows.

My spidey senses first tingled when wealthy manchild actor **Owen Wilson** allegedly attempted suicide just prior to the release of The Darjeeling Limited, in which he played a wealthy but suicidally-depressed manchild. I maintain the only thing Wilson attempted was publicity. But let's face it, the ploy wouldn't work unless the reality-TV genre, part of the ongoing dumbing-down of society at large, hadn't successfully eroded the ability of the general public to realize IT'S ONLY MAKE BELIEVE!

The debate rages. Is this just a cynical ploy to get people talking about Californication, or has Duchovny really got a problem? Only his wife, actress **Téa Leoni**, and perhaps a couple hundred groupies know for sure.

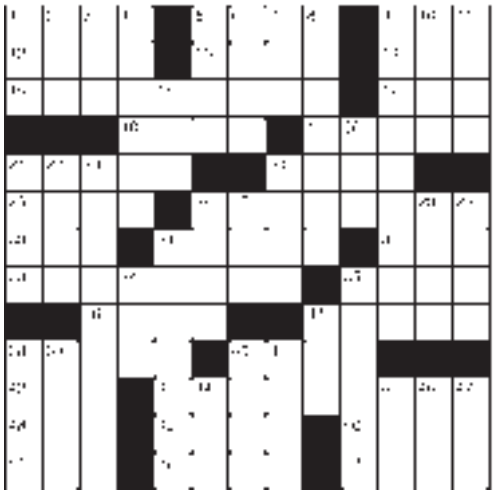
All I know is, if I read a story in the near future that actor **James Gandolfini** actually is an underboss, or that the guy from Dexter studies blood spatter analysis in his spare time, the dream factory has won again. Darn them to heck!

NEWSDESK@METRONEWS.CA

This bloke is broke

Guy Ritchie has branded rumours he and wife Madonna are set to renew their wedding vows as "rubbish," because he spent too much money on her 50th birthday celebrations on Aug. 16. IMDB.COM

Take Five



Crossword down

1 Plagiarize
2 Tackle the slopes
3 — rose
4 Pirate-costume feature
5 Small barrels
6 In good order
7 Shade source
8 Shoelaces go through them
9 City of India
10 Notion
11 Cereal container
16 "Days of — Lives"
20 Ostrich's cousin
21 Raced
22 Lotion additive
23 One-story houses
24 Highway division
26 Actress Ward
27 Chum
28 Tennis situation
29 Membership
31 Late-spring beetle
34 Response (Abbr.)
35 Battery terminals
37 See 41-Down
38 Basketball team
39 Tiny particle
40 "Bus Stop" playwright
41 With 37-Down, way back when
44 Raw rock
45 Regret
46 Samovar
47 Witticism

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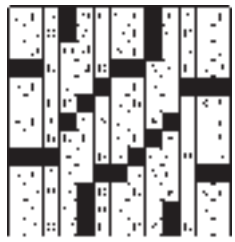
Crossword across

1 Answer an invite
5 Dandling locale
9 Clothing protector
12 Tom Joad, e.g.
13 Slithery
14 Big fuss
15 Its participants must form a line
17 Fresh
18 A deadly sin
19 Within the rules
21 Cavalry sword
24 Golf legend Tony
25 Advertise
26 Burger flippers
30 A billion years
31 Casual pants
32 Keatsian poem
33 Paris airport, familiarly
35 Met melody
36 King of Siam's employee
37 Concerning
38 Untrue
40 Othello's foe
42 Judge Lance
43 It was beat by beatniks
48 Solemn promise
49 Incite
50 Modern-day money
51 Type squares
52 The Bee —
53 Faxed

previous day's answer



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
People are using you as a resource person. Speak up if you're unfairly accused of malicious intent. A different financial cycle begins.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Thrills abound when somebody shares long-withheld information. Find a way to take an afternoon nap. Accusations of laziness will get around.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Don't alienate everyone you know. There's an abundance of energy in the air. Anxiety melts away after noon, so don't let it ruin your morning.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
An apparent desertion is really an attempt to be kind. Spending time on an emotional seesaw tires you. Idle chatter produces feelings of goodwill.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
A friend settles one debt by initiating another. Someone calls to give a compliment. Parental units are craving a visit.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
An attractive person's sweet smile creates a jolly ambiance. Someone must be told the terrible truth. Take a walk on the wild side.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
There's lots of moving and shaking going on. You've grown tired of a nonsensical situation. The tide will turn for the better this evening.

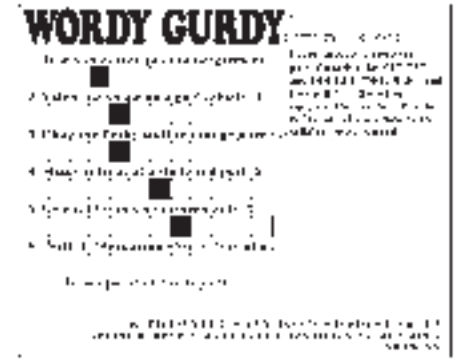
SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24- NOV 22
Take special care while travelling. Personal objects are not where they should be. Sharing a secret about your dreams gets you nowhere.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23- DEC 21
Your social status will rise. Ask for crucial decisions to be made by others. You'll remember what you need once you get somewhere.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
A man is in a much better mood and will listen to you. Don't trust machinery to work properly. Watch your language and avoid temper tantrums.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
A win-win situation develops. Plan to get a complete personal makeover. Take a walk to refresh your powers of observation.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MAR 20
Shun those who offer unconvincing arguments for bad conduct. Keep your eyes peeled for good stuff. Purchase new bedding and a winter coat.



This day in history

SEP. 2, 1792: During what became known as the September Massacres of the French Revolution, rampaging mobs slaughter three Roman Catholic Church bishops, more than two hundred priests, and prisoners believed to be royalist sympathizers.
SEP. 2, 1901: Vice President of the United States Theodore Roosevelt utters the famous phrase, "Speak softly and carry a big stick" at the Minnesota State Fair.
SEP. 2, 1969: The first automatic teller machine in the United States is installed in Rockville Center, New York.
SEP. 2, 1998: U.S. Swissair Flight 111 crashes near Peggys Cove, Nova Scotia. All 229 people on board are killed.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sudoku

3					6	5	7	
	5			1		4	2	
6			7					9
				2			9	7
		4				1		
7	2			8				
4					5			3
	7	3		6			4	
	8	9	2					1

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU:
The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer

9	8	1	3	6	4	2	5	7
4	6	5	2	1	7	8	9	3
3	2	7	8	9	5	1	6	4
5	7	8	6	2	3	9	4	1
1	3	2	4	7	9	5	8	6
6	9	4	5	8	1	3	7	2
8	5	3	7	4	2	6	1	9
7	1	6	9	3	8	4	2	5
2	4	9	1	5	6	7	3	8

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME IN MINUTES:

Under 13. . . . . Genius
13-17 . . . . . Scholar
17-21. . . . . Smart
21-25. . . . . Not bad
25+ . . . . . Keep practising

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Ottawa weather

Afternoon	Tonight	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sunny. 30°	Clear. 18°	Sunny. 29°/ 19°	40% Showers. 25°/ 15°	Variable. 22°/ 16°

The Weather Network theweathernetwork.com

Temperature
Normals
High: 22.7°
Low: 12.1°

Records
High: 32.8°/1973
Low: 4.4°/1946

Sunrise: 6:25 a.m.
Sunset: 7:37 p.m.
Moonrise: 9:39 a.m.
Moonset: 8:29 p.m.

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